



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

UPDATES MADE TO TENNESSEE CROP PRODUCTION FORECASTS

NASHVILLE, October 8, 2010 – September weather was very similar to the hot, dry conditions of August. As a result, row crop yield forecasts declined overall. Cotton was the lone exception, however, as the crop has fared well despite this year's growing conditions. Results of a survey of farmers conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the state's cotton and hay yields increased from earlier projections, while corn and soybeans decreased. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' projections of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 117 bushels per acre, down 31 bushels from 2009; **Cotton**, 905 pounds per acre, up 62 pounds from a year earlier; **Soybeans**, 33 bushels per acre, down 12 bushels from the previous year; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,750 pounds per acre, down 170 pounds from last year; and **Other Hay**, except alfalfa, 2.3 tons per acre, up 0.1 tons from 2009.

COTTON PRODUCTION SURGES

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 730,000 bales, up 48 percent from last year's production of 492,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 905 pounds per acre, up 62 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 387,000 acres, an increase of 107,000 acres from 2009. In many areas, bolls are small and knotty, but quite numerous, leading to the prospects of an excellent crop. Overall yields are aided by the increase in acreage under irrigation and ample heat units. Defoliation and harvest progress around October 1 was a full two weeks ahead of average. As of October 1, 172,050 bales of cotton had been ginned, and 95 percent of the crop had been defoliated compared to an average of 64 percent.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN NEARLY A THIRD

Soybean production is forecast at 46.5 million bushels, down 22.3 million from last year's near record output and, if realized, will be slightly above average. Soybean yields are forecast at 33 bushels per acre, 12 bushels below 2009. The State's planted acreage is estimated at 1.45 million acres, down 8 percent from a year earlier. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.41 million, down 120,000 acres from a year ago. Continued dry weather during the month of September caused rapid development in the soybean crop. As of October 3, 46 percent of the crop had been harvested and 91 percent dropping leaves, a week ahead of the five-year average.

CORN PRODUCTION SLIDES FROM 2009

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 73.7 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 117 bushels per acre, 31 bushels below 2009 and 5 bushels below the September 1 forecast. The State's planted acreage was updated from June and is now estimated at 710,000 acres, up 40,000 from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 630,000 acres for grain, also 40,000 more than last year. Favorable harvest weather allowed virtually uninterrupted progress during September. Silage harvest was completed by month's end. As of the week ending October 3, over 96 percent of the corn crop for grain had been harvested. Grain harvest is running a full three weeks ahead of schedule and is the third highest harvest percentage on record for this time of year.

(OVER)

BURLEY PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY

As of October 1, burley production is forecast at 26.3 million pounds, 2 percent below a year ago. The state average yield is forecast at 1,750 pounds per acre, down 170 pounds from 2009. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 15,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2009. Harvest, with the exception of dark fire-cured, was about wrapped-up at month's end. The completion of dark fire-cured harvest has been delayed as growers counting on double-barring await a slow curing crop. Curing conditions were generally poor in Middle Tennessee and manageable elsewhere. Yields are highly variable depending on when the crop was set and moisture availability. Some of the earliest set tobacco died in the intense heat and dry weather, while the bulk of later set tobacco received some showers. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,900 pounds per acre, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,600 pounds per acre, down 200 and 100 pounds per acre, respectively.

HAY PRODUCTION TO INCREASE

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.37 million tons, 5 percent above last year's crop. Yields are expected to average 2.3 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.90 million acres, unchanged from a year earlier. Autumn in Tennessee has seen a continuation of summer's above average temperatures and sparse precipitation. As of the week ending October 3, 24 percent of pastures were rated in very poor condition, 25 percent in poor condition, 33 percent in fair condition, and 18 percent in good condition. Many cattle producers have been feeding hay for several weeks now.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2010, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	8,890	10,000	8,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	590	630	148	117	87,320	73,710
Cotton ¹	lb.	280	387	843	905	492	730
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,900	1,900	2.20	2.30	4,180	4,370
Soybeans	bu.	1,530	1,410	45	33	68,850	46,530
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.6	22.3	2,313	2,112	49,960	47,090
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.4	6.2	3,100	2,900	19,840	17,980
Burley	lb.	14.0	15.0	1,920	1,750	26,880	26,250
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.2	1.1	2,700	2,600	3,240	2,860
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	190	51.0	53.0	17,340	9,540
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,914,900	9,413,500
Corn for grain	bu.	79,590	81,263	164.7	162.5	13,110,062	12,663,949
Cotton ¹	lb.	7,529	10,773	777	841	12,188	18,873
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	38,528	38,924	1.98	2.08	76,412	80,952
Soybeans	bu.	76,372	76,823	44.0	44.4	3,359,011	3,408,211
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.2	338.0	2,322	2,110	822,567	713,033
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.2	15.6	3,281	3,080	52,990	48,055
Burley	lb.	101.9	97.9	2,109	1,897	214,896	185,695
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.8	5.6	2,938	2,761	17,040	15,460
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,510	31,749	44.2	46.8	1,524,608	1,485,236

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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